



**COUNTY OF
SAN BERNARDINO**

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Federal Legislative Activities Week of October 28, 2013

Please find a listing of federal legislative activities the County and our federal advocates are monitoring during the week of October 28, 2013 below. This week, the House and Senate will begin conferences on a budget and a farm bill.

Monday, October 28

Legislation Considered in the House Under Suspension of the Rules:

[H.R. 1742](#) - Vulnerable Veterans Housing Reform Act of 2013. This bill excludes a disabled veteran's service-related disability benefits and expenses related to in-home care from being considered when calculating income eligibility for Section 8 rental assistance and public housing programs — which would make more such veterans eligible for federal housing aid.

[H.R. 2189](#) - This bill establishes a special panel to evaluate how to reduce or eliminate the Veterans Affairs (VA) Department's backlog of disability claims and appeals and requires the VA to take certain actions to speed up the processing of claims. In addition, it includes provisions related to compensation and pensions benefits, such as the use of contract physicians in performing examinations.

[H.R. 2481](#) - The bill clarifies foreclosure and refinancing protections for veterans, extends certain homeless veterans reintegration programs until 2018, expands education benefits for certain survivors of deceased servicemembers and protects the rights of active-duty members of the military in child custody cases when the servicemember is deployed and reauthorizes the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program and its current funding level of \$50 million through Sept. 30, 2018.

Tuesday, October 29

Legislation Considered in the House Under Suspension of the Rules:

[H.R. 330](#) - Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial Act (Sponsored by Rep. Ken Calvert / Natural Resources Committee). Designates a memorial located at March Field Air Museum in Riverside, as the Distinguished Flying Cross National Memorial, in honor of current and former members of the Armed Forces who have been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and prohibits the designation of such memorial from being construed to require or permit the use of federal funds for any related purpose.

H.J.Res. (bill number unassigned at this time) - Disapprove the President's Authority to Suspend the Debt Limit . The measure disapproves the suspension of the debt limit included as part of the FY 2014 Continuing Appropriations Act (PL 113-46), which if enacted would prevent any further borrowing by Treasury.

Hearing: Status of the Affordable Care Act Implementation | 10 AM | House Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing: The North American Energy Infrastructure Act | 10 AM | House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Oversight Hearing: "Threats, Intimidation and Bullying by Federal Land Managing Agencies" | 10 AM | House Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation

Hearing: "Federal Housing Administration: Implications of a \$1.7 billion Taxpayer Bailout" | 10 AM | House Committee on Financial Services

Press Conference: Panel on 21st Century Freight Transportation Recommendations | 11 AM | House T&I Committee

House Committee on Homeland Security | Full Committee Markup:

[H.R. 1791](#) - Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act. This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to codify authority under existing grant guidance authorizing use of Urban Area Security Initiative and State Homeland Security Grant Program funding for enhancing medical preparedness, medical surge capacity, and mass prophylaxis capabilities. The "Medical Preparedness Allowable Use Act."

[H.R. 1095](#), Amends title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to transfer unclaimed money recovered at airport security checkpoints to nonprofit organizations that provide places of rest and recuperation at airports for members of the Armed Forces and their families, and for other purposes.

Wednesday, October 30

Hearing: A Culture of Mismanagement and Wasteful Conference Spending at the Department of Veterans Affairs | 9:30 AM | House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

House and Senate Budget-Conference Committee Meeting | 10 AM | This marks the beginning of budget negotiations, the first attempt in four years to develop a consensus spending blueprint for the two chambers. It's as yet unclear whether the conference will meet regularly up to its Dec. 13 deadline or if leaders will work behind closed doors and then unveil an agreement to the 29 conferees for adoption.

Hearing: PPACA Implementation Failures: Answers from HHS | 10 AM | House Committee on Energy and Commerce. The hearing will provide members an opportunity to hear directly from HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius in the continued effort to find out what went wrong, what did the administration know, and when did they know it. Click [here](#) for background information.

Senate Health Education Labor and Pensions Committee Markup:

[H.R. 2094](#) - Public Health Service Act to increase the preference given, in awarding certain asthma-related grants, to certain States (those allowing trained school personnel to administer epinephrine and meeting other related requirements)

[S.1562](#) - Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2013

[S. 1302](#) - Cooperative and Small Employer Charity Pension Flexibility Act to provide for cooperative and small employer charity pension plans.

House & Senate Farm Bill Conference Committee Meeting | 1 PM | Click [here](#) for Conferees.

Hearing: Housing Finance Reform: Essential Elements of the Multifamily Housing Finance System | 10 AM | Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Hearing: Effect of Government Shutdown on VA Benefits and Services to Veterans | 10:30 AM | House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Recess

No votes are expected in the House Thursday and Friday and at the conclusion of business this week, the House will leave for a one-week recess.